

REMARKS

Reconsideration of the application is requested in view of the above amendments and the following remarks. Claims 8-15 have been amended. No new matter has been added as a result of these amendments. Claims 8-15 remain pending.

Objections to the Drawings

The drawings were objected to for failing to illustrate the nozzle bars which are recited in claim 9. Applicants would like to draw the Examiner's attention to page 4, lines 6-11, wherein Applicants incorporated by reference a device first introduced in the German patent application published as DE 199 04 994. A copy of this reference, along with the English abstract thereof, has been attached to this paper. Upon reading the specification and the cited application, Applicants respectfully contend one having ordinary skill in the art would understand what Applicants intended to refer to by the term "nozzle bars." Applicants respectfully contend the specification combined with the cited reference provides disclosure sufficient to show every feature of the claims. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request the withdrawal of this objection.

Objections to the Specification

The specification was objected to for including references to canceled claims. All references to specific claims have been deleted. The specification was also objected to for a typographical error resulting in an incorrect reference numeral. This error has been corrected in the amendment. Applicants respectfully request the withdrawal of this objection.

Claim Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. § 112

Claims 8-13 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph, as failing to satisfy the written description requirement. The Examiner contends that the written description only describes a lock-like valve system (3) that connects the depot (1) and the batch mixer (4), while claim 8 requires a valve system (3) that connects a batch mixer (4) to a dryer/cooler (8). Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

Applicants respectfully contend that one of ordinary skill in the art would understand the written description as conveying that a lock-like valve system (3) can be used to connect a batch mixer (4) to a dryer/cooler (8). The written description makes specific reference to a lock-like valve system (3) with respect to the connection between the depot (1) and the batch mixer (4). (p. 3, ll. 27-33). The specification further states that "[c]orresponding closing devices (not shown) are provided between the individual components." (p. 5, ll. 3-5). This concept is further reinforced by the fact that the batch mixer (4) and the dryer/cooler (8) are capable of being operated at the same time, as distinct steps in the process. (p. 4, l. 37 - p. 5, l. 3). In addition, a valve system (11) is clearly illustrated as lying between the dryer/cooler (8) and the batch mixer (12). Upon reading these statements, and considering the objectives of the invention, one having ordinary skill in the art would recognize that a lock-like valve system can be included between the batch mixer (4) and the dryer/cooler (8). For at least these reasons, Applicants respectfully contend the written description fulfills the written description requirement under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph.

Claims 8-15 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as indefinite. Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection. In order to advance prosecution of the application, however, Applicants have amended claims 14-15 to remove the phrase, "especially feed meal or similar bulk good." Applicants respectfully contend the amendment renders this rejection moot.

In view of the above, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of the application in the form of a Notice of Allowance.

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Respectfully submitted,

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